Boston Herald Traveler 11/16/72

WHOSE?

Kleindienst Strong on Rights

(United Press International)

Richard Gordon Kleindienst, who once said that being deputy attorney general was a lot like being a golf caddie, is going to be calling all the shots now at the Justice Department.

Anyone expecting a big change from the regime of Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell is in for a surprise.

IN AN INTERVIEW before his appointment as Mitchell's successor, Kleindienst promised to pursue the administration's tough stand on anti-trust violators and "continued aggressive enforcement of civil rights laws" if he were nominated to succeed Mitchell.

"The Liberal press doesn't care to acknowledge what were's doing," he said in a remark characteristic of Mitchell's thinking.

Nor is this surprising. Kleindienst not only has worked side by side with Mitchell for the past three years, but he also is a great Mitchell admirer.

The differences between the two men are chiefly in background, personality and style, not in philosophy.

Kleindienst came into the Justice Department as the new administration's "hatchet man." He was said to be ruthless in weeding out Democratic jobholders from the outgoing Johnson administration.

HE LATER BECAME something of a puzzle: the public straight man for Mitchell in situations when they wanted to be funny; often the butt of Mitchell's sardonic wit.

Their humor—frequently displayed before reporters—led some to wonder if Kleindienst really was Mitchell's right-hand man. Few were allowed to see the really intimate relationship; a warmth that led, for example, to the Mitchells choosing to spend last Christmas with the Kleindiensts in Phoenix, Ariz.

At 48, Kleindienst is slightly overweight, has a quick broad grin, a ready sense of humor. He loves jokes and likes to kid people.

He is deadly serious about politics although he can tell jokes on himself for losing the 1964 Arizona gubernatorial race. And he is deadly serious about his belief in the Nixon administration, and his respect for the civil rights of all persons.

Born Aug. 5, 1923, in the little northern Arizona railroad town of Winslow, Kleindienst grew up as part of a white minority in a community of Indians, Mexicans, Chinese and Japanese.

"I WASN'T AWARE of racial prejudice until I got out of the parochial setting in which I was reared," he said. He is proud that an Indian who was one of his best friends in high school—Pat Madrid—is now U.S. marshal of Arizona.